



PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Cincinnati Field Office *Special Agent in Charge Kathy A. Enstrom*

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LOCAL WOMAN INDICTED WITH AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT IN A SCHEME TO DEFRAUD THE IRS

COLUMBUS, OHIO -- A federal grand jury here has indicted Kelly L. Sims, 33, of Columbus, Ohio, charging her with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, two counts of wire fraud, and seven counts of aggravated identity theft.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio and Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation (IRS), Cincinnati Field Office announced the indictment that was returned on June 9, 2015..

According to the indictment, between October 2014 and May 2015 Kelly Sims allegedly conspired with others to defraud the IRS by preparing and filing fraudulent federal income tax returns on behalf of other individuals from whom they had obtained personal identification information which created false income tax refunds. In addition, it has been alleged that personal identification information of individuals was also used for dependents on the false income tax returns that were filed with the IRS. Sims and her co-conspirators allegedly recruited individuals who had their own bank accounts or prepaid debit cards to receive the false income tax refunds through wire transfers. Sims and her co-conspirators collected the false income refunds from the account holders and retained most of those funds for their own use.

Specifically, it has been alleged that in February 2015 Sims and her co-conspirators filed five false 2014 income tax returns with the IRS on behalf of other individuals. Each of these false income tax returns included personal identification information used for dependents that were not actual dependents of the individuals. Each of the dependents lived in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Conspiracy to commit wire fraud carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, wire fraud carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, and aggravated identity theft carries a mandatory two-year sentence that must run consecutive to whatever sentence may ultimately be handed down.

"Stealing identities and filing false tax returns is a serious crime," said Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office. Today's indictment should serve as a strong warning to those who are considering similar conduct."

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel Brown and was investigated by special agents of IRS-Criminal Investigation.

An indictment merely contains allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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